

I CLAIM:

1. A cargo retainer assembly for a cargo compartment of a vehicle, the cargo retainer assembly comprising:

an elongate retaining member;

5 a retaining member support configured to be secured to a wall of the cargo compartment and having a receiving region adapted to receive an end of the retaining member; and

a spacer configured to be selectively inserted into and removed from the receiving region, the spacer being shaped and sized to contact the retaining member on two
10 adjacent sides of the retaining member to thereby reduce gaps between the retaining member and wall sections which bound and define the receiving region.

2. The cargo retainer assembly of claim 1, wherein the retaining member, once secured within the receiving region, is adapted to inhibit shifting of cargo within the
15 cargo compartment.

3. The cargo retainer assembly of claim 2, wherein the wall sections of the receiving region form a pocket adapted to receive the retaining member and limit movement of the retaining member.

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4. The cargo retainer assembly of claim 3, wherein the pocket is open on a side so as to permit lateral insertion of the end of the retaining member into the receiving region.

5. The cargo retainer assembly of claim 4, further comprising a fastener adapted to secure the end of the retaining member and the spacer within the receiving region.

6. The cargo retainer assembly of claim 5, wherein the retaining member support has an aperture adapted to allow passage of the fastener through the aperture so that the fastener is inhibited from sliding lengthwise relative to the retaining member.

7. The cargo retainer assembly of claim 1, wherein the retaining member has a length sufficient to span between opposing side walls of the cargo compartment.

8. The cargo retainer assembly of claim 7, further comprising a second retaining member support, wherein the two retaining member supports are adapted to be mounted to opposing side walls of the cargo compartment, such that the retaining member supports receive and retain opposing ends of the retaining member.

9. The cargo retainer assembly of claim 8, wherein the retaining member supports are selectively removable and adapted to be placed at intermediate locations along the opposing side walls.

10. The cargo retainer assembly of claim 1, wherein the retaining member support is removably secured to a wall of the cargo compartment with adhesive.

11. The cargo retainer assembly of claim 1, wherein the retaining member support has a handle adapted to be gripped by a user for manipulation and placement of the retaining member support.
- 5 12. The cargo retainer assembly of claim 1, wherein the spacer may be placed in multiple different orientations within the receiving region to accommodate retaining members of different sizes.
- 10 13. The cargo retainer assembly of claim 12, wherein the spacer has two legs, substantially perpendicular to one another, and having different contours so that each leg has a unique shape and size.
- 15 14. The cargo retainer assembly of claim 13, wherein one leg of the spacer is adapted to support an end surface of the retaining member, and another leg of the spacer is adapted to support an adjacent bottom surface of the retaining member.
15. The cargo retainer assembly of claim 1, wherein the spacer is made from foam.

16. A cargo area, comprising:

a side wall; and

a cargo positioning system adapted to limit fore and aft movement of cargo disposed within the cargo area, the cargo positioning system comprising:

5 a retaining member;

a retaining member support having a receiving region sized to receive an end of the retaining member and adapted to be removably secured at a location along the side wall; and

10 a removable spacer insertable within the receiving region and adapted to urge the retaining member against the retaining member support, wherein the spacer is positionable between a portion of the retaining member and the retaining member support so as to contact adjacent sides of the retaining member.

17. The cargo area of claim 16, further comprising a fastener adapted to secure the end
15 of the retaining member and the spacer relative to the retaining member support.

18. The cargo area of claim 17, wherein the retaining member support has an aperture adapted to allow passage of the fastener through the retaining member support so that the fastener is inhibited from sliding lengthwise relative to the retaining member.

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19. The cargo area of claim 16, wherein the retaining member is removably secured to the wall with double-sided tape having multiple sections adapted to be used multiple times by sequential removal of a backing strip on each of the multiple sections.

5 20. The cargo area of claim 16, wherein the retaining member support has a handle adapted to be gripped by a user for manipulation and placement of the retaining member support.

21. The cargo area of claim 16, wherein the spacer has two legs each being uniquely
10 contoured so that the spacer is adapted to accommodate different retaining member sizes by varying the orientation of the spacer within the receiving region of the retaining member support.

22. The cargo area of claim 16, wherein the spacer is made of an elastic material.

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23. A method of securing cargo within a cargo compartment by placing a retaining member within the cargo compartment to inhibit fore and aft movement of the cargo, the method comprising:

securing a retaining member support, having a receiving region, to a wall of a

5 cargo area using adhesive;

placing an end of a retaining member within the receiving region; and

inserting a spacer within the receiving region, wherein the spacer is configured to contact adjacent edge surfaces of the retaining member to take up excess space within the receiving region of the retaining member support.

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24. The method of claim 23, further comprising wrapping a fastener around the retaining member, the retaining member support, and the spacer to restrict relative movement therebetween.

15 25. The method of claim 24, wherein the fastener passes through an aperture in the retaining member support and is thereby restricted from moving lengthwise relative to the retaining member.

26. The method of claim 23, further comprising grasping a handle to selectively
20 remove the retaining member support from the wall of the cargo area.

27. The method of claim 23, further comprising securing a second retaining member support to an opposing wall of the cargo area and placing an opposing end of the retaining member within the second retaining member support, such that the retaining member spans a width of the cargo area.

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28. The method of claim 27, wherein the first and second retaining member supports are removably secured in place using a multiple-use adhesive.

29. The method of claim 28, further comprising moving the supports to an
10 intermediate location along a length of the cargo area to account for the cargo area being only partly full of cargo.

30. A cargo retainer assembly for a cargo compartment of a vehicle, the cargo retainer assembly comprising:

15 an elongate retaining member;

a retaining member support configured to be secured to a wall of the cargo compartment and having a receiving region adapted to receive an end of the retaining member, wherein the receiving region has an open side to permit lateral insertion of the end of the retaining member into the receiving region; and

20 a spacer configured to be selectively inserted into and removed from the receiving region to selectively reduce gaps between the retaining member and the receiving region.

31. The cargo retainer assembly of claim 30, wherein the spacer is shaped to contact adjacent edge surfaces of the retaining member.

32. The cargo retaining assembly of claim 31, wherein the adjacent edge surfaces of
5 the retaining member are perpendicular to one another.